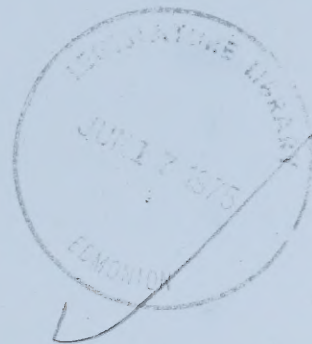




To His Honour

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council

Legislative Building

Edmonton 6, Alberta

May It Please Your Honour:

The undersigned has the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas required to be submitted to Your Honour pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 2 of the Wilderness Areas Act.

Respectfully submitted

T. A. Drinkwater

Chairman

Date: October 29, 1971

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INTRODUCTION

The Wilderness Areas Act, Section 2, Subsection 1 provides for the establishing of a Committee called the "Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas" consisting of not less than five and not more than ten members.

The Committee is delegated certain responsibilities under Sections 2 and 3 of the Act and this report is a report required by Section 3, Subsection 2 of the said Act.

The Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas consists of ten members as follows:

Mr. T. A. Drinkwater (Chairman)
Department of Lands and Forests

Mr. H. W. Thiessen (Secretary)
Department of the Environment

Dr. Ernest J. Wiggins
The Research Council of Alberta

Mr. Michael J. Day
Department of Mines and Minerals

Dr. Dennis Parkinson
CALGARY, Alberta

Mr. Elmer Kure
R. R. #1
INNISFAIL, Alberta

Mr. Kenneth Dezall
COWLEY, Alberta

Mr. Grant McNabb
CALGARY, Alberta

Mr. James Stewart
SEXSMITH, Alberta

Mr. Edward Davies
EDMONTON, Alberta

These members were appointed by Order-in-Council 1244/71 and 1356/71 on July 14 and July 27, 1971.

The Committee held five meetings between the period July 14 and October 29, 1971. A Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee made two field trips to the Provisional Wilderness Areas and six members of the Committee made a helicopter reconnaissance of the areas comprising the Ghost River and Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Areas on October 14 in the company of the Minister of Lands and Forests. Committee Members Day and McNabb individually made hiking trips to the Pinto Lake and Cline River areas respectively.

The Committee was faced with very specific terms of reference in Section 3, Subsections 2 and 3 of the Wilderness Areas Act in that a decision had to be made with respect to the Siffleur and White Goat Areas with a view to reducing these areas in size and selecting portions thereof which would not exceed areas of 144 square miles. In the final analysis, the Committee is recommending that a reduction in area should take place only in the White Goat Area and has selected an area which in the Committee's opinion best suits the character of a Wilderness Area in terms of the use constraints imposed on the proposed areas by the terms of the Wilderness Areas Act.

The Committee recognizes that other areas in the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve are deserving of the protection afforded by Section 15 of the Department of the Environment Act and recommends for the consideration of Your Honour the concept of Wilderness Areas protected by adjacent Restricted Development Areas.



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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas with respect to the three Provisional Wilderness Areas in summary are as follows:

(1) Ghost River Provisional Wilderness Area

The Committee recommends that the present Ghost River Provisional Wilderness Area be established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act.

(2) Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area

The Committee recommends that notwithstanding the fact that the Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area is approximately 15 square miles larger than the 144 square mile guideline set out in the Wilderness Areas Act, this present Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area be confirmed and established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act.

The Committee further recommends that the present area between the north boundary of the Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area and the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River including the lower portions of the Siffleur River and the portions of the Kootenay Plains Natural Area lying east of the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River be included in the Siffleur Wilderness Area at the first opportunity after the Bighorn Reservoir is filled to capacity.

(3) White Goat Provisional Wilderness Area

The Committee recommends that the following area containing 172 square miles, more or less, be established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act.

All that parcel or tract of land, situate, lying, and being in the Province of Alberta, Canada, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the east boundary of Banff National Park, distant 300 yards northwesterly measured along the said boundary from its intersection with the Norman Creek-Pinto Lake Trail in unsurveyed Township 35, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence in a northeasterly direction parallel to the said trail to a point on the left bank of the Cline River, which point is approximately 400 yards downstream from where the said trail first crosses the Cline River; thence downstream following the sinuosities of the said bank to a point on the said bank opposite the mouth of a small unnamed creek, which point is approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of the said Cline River with Coral Creek in unsurveyed Township 36, Range 18, West of the 5th Meridian; thence northwesterly following the height of land forming the west boundary of the watershed of Coral Creek and continuing along the height of land forming the easterly and northerly boundary of the watershed of McDonald Creek to Mount McDonald in unsurveyed Township 38,

Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence southerly approximately one mile to an unnamed peak; thence westerly down the slope of this latter peak to the source of the easterly fork of an unnamed creek; thence westerly and northerly following the unnamed creek to its intersection with the east boundary of Jasper National Park in unsurveyed Township 38, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence southerly, southwesterly and southeasterly following the east boundary of Jasper and Banff National Parks to the point of commencement.

GHOST RIVER PROVISIONAL WILDERNESS AREA

GENERAL:

The Ghost River Wilderness Area was established under the provisions of Section 8 of the Provincial Parks Act on May 2, 1967 by Order-in-Council 763/67. The area was established as a Provisional Wilderness Area by Section 3, Subsection 1 of the Wilderness Areas Act.

AREA:

The Ghost River Provisional Wilderness Area is located in Townships 26, 27 and 28, Ranges 10 and 11, West of the 5th Meridian. The west boundary of the area adjoins Banff National Park. The Wilderness Area contains approximately 59 square miles.

TOPOGRAPHY:

The area is an almost complete ecological unit surrounded by a rock range rising to 9,500 feet in many areas of the boundary. The Ghost River and several tributary streams arise in the area with the river flowing easterly out of the Provisional Wilderness in approximately Section 23 of Township 27, Range 10, West of the 5th Meridian.

ACCESS:

The access to the Ghost River Area is very limited. The main access is from the Forestry Trunk Road up the Ghost River Valley for eighteen miles. This road which was built by Calgary

Power Ltd., is kept closed by the Bar C Ranch at the present time. Two-wheel drive vehicles could proceed to within six miles of the boundary and four-wheel drive or all-terrain vehicles could reach the boundary if the road were open. The Bar C Ranch could be by-passed by using seismic trails with four-wheel drive vehicles or all-terrain vehicles.

The area can also be reached on foot or horse from the north side of Lake Minnewanka through Aylmer Pass. This trail enters the Wilderness Area approximately three miles north of the Minnewanka Trail.

FISH AND GAME:

The Ghost River and tributaries contain trout and Rocky Mountain Whitefish. The area contains limited numbers of most forms of wildlife common to the mountains including black and grizzly bear, deer, elk, goats, moose and sheep.

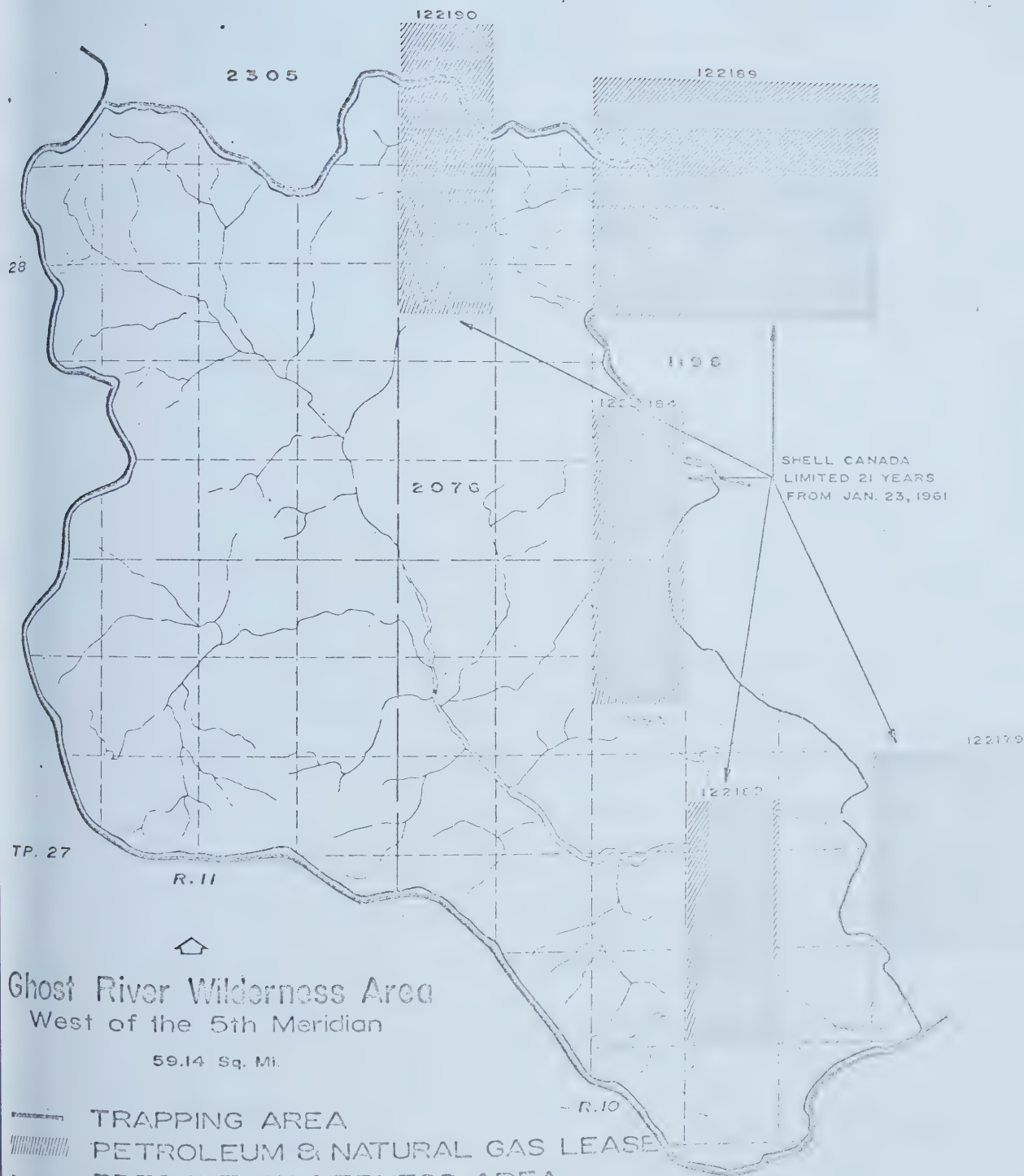
The area provides a good part of the sheep winter range on the east side of the boundary as well as secondary winter range and summer range on the northwest portion of the boundary.

ALIENATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS:

Alienations of land by way of dispositions in the Ghost River Provisional Wilderness are a Trap Line Number 2076 registered to Alvin Twoyoungmen Sr., of Morley, Alberta (Appendix 1) and five Petroleum and Natural Gas Leases issued to Shell Canada Limited. (Appendix 2)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The area of the Ghost River Provisional Wilderness is less than the size guideline specified in Section 3, Subsection 3 of the Wilderness Areas Act. The area is also a self-contained isolated unit well suited to the wilderness concept promulgated by the Act and the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas recommends that the Ghost River Provisional Wilderness Area be established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act.



SIFFLEUR PROVISIONAL WILDERNESS AREA

GENERAL:

The Siffleur Wilderness Area was established under the provisions of Section 10 of the Forest Reserves Act on January 10, 1961 by Order-in-Council 46/61. The area was re-established and filed under the Regulations Act on October 21, 1965 by Order-in-Council 1876/65. The area was subsequently established a Provisional Wilderness Area by Section 3, Subsection 1 of the Wilderness Areas Act.

AREA:

The Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area is located within Townships 32, - 35, Ranges 16 - 19, West of the 5th Meridian. The west and south boundary of the area adjoins Banff National Park. The north boundary of the area is an imaginary line which is located three miles south of the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River following the sinuosities of the river to the point where the line crosses the Siffleur River. The boundary then proceeds to follow generally the ridge of mountains southerly and westerly to their intersection with the boundary of Banff National Park. The area established contains approximately 159 square miles.

TOPOGRAPHY:

The Siffleur area is generally bounded by a high mountain perimeter rising in some areas over 10,000 feet. The one major break in the perimeter, with the exception of the north boundary

area, is the headwaters of the Siffleur River itself. At this point the boundary is at approximately 5,900 feet and provides one of the main access routes into the area on foot from the Banff-Jasper Highway.

Corona Creek, Spreading Creek, Loudon Creek, Porcupine Creek and Porcupine Lakes, Escarpment River and the Siffleur River arise or flow through the area. The interior of the Siffleur Wilderness can best be described as a series of majestic peaks separated by very picturesque valleys.

ACCESS:

At the present time, access to the Siffleur Wilderness is relatively good. Hiking access is available up the Dolomite Creek Valley and also up some of the other creek valleys on the east side of the Banff-Jasper Highway.

Vehicle access is possible at present from the David Thompson Highway (Highway #11) by crossing the North Saskatchewan River on a bridge and driving on an old logging road through the Kootenay Plains Natural Area to where the road crosses the Siffleur River. The Alberta Forest Service has established a campground at this point which is used as a starting place for hiking up the Siffleur Valley on the east side particularly to the Siffleur Falls. There is little traffic beyond the falls and it is approximately two miles further to the wilderness boundary.

Hiking access is also possible from the logging road up the Spreading Creek Valley and Corona Creek as well as on the pack trail on the west side of the Siffleur River.

When the Bighorn Dam is complete and the reservoir full, the area on the east side and south side of the North Saskatchewan River will not be accessible by vehicle as the bridge will be flooded.

FISH AND GAME:

Dolly Varden Trout and Rocky Mountain Whitefish are present in the streams in the area. The streams are not too productive.

The area contains a population of approximately fifty elk and one hundred goats. No sheep or caribou are present in the area and there are a few grizzly bear noted from time to time. The south boundary of the area on either side of the Siffleur River is winter range for the goat population.

ALIENATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS:

The Siffleur Area is totally covered by a Trap Line Number 534 registered in the name of Alfred Dixon of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. (Appendix 4)

There are also two Petroleum and Natural Gas Leases issued to Western Decalta Petroleum Limited which affect the area in the northeast portion.

There is also a Petroleum and Natural Gas Reservation issued to Siebens Oil and Gas Ltd. which affects fractional areas on the east and northeast. (Appendix 5)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area exceeds the 144

square mile area guideline set out in the Wilderness Areas Act. To reduce the area to comply with this guideline would have to be accomplished by moving the north boundary to the south a sufficient distance to delete approximately fifteen square miles from the area. As previously pointed out the present north boundary is a line which follows the sinuosities of the North Saskatchewan River three miles south of the right bank of the river. It would be pointless in view of the following recommendations to move the imaginary boundary back one more mile in order to comply with the provisions of the Wilderness Areas Act. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Committee that the present Siffleur Provisional Wilderness Area be confirmed and established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act notwithstanding the fact that it contains 159 square miles, more or less, at the present time.

The Committee also recommends most strongly that the three-mile area between the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River and the present Provisional Wilderness Area boundary, including the lower Siffleur River and the portion of the Kootenay Plains Natural Area lying east of the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River be included in the Siffleur Wilderness Area when the Bighorn Reservoir is filled and vehicle access to the east side of the North Saskatchewan River will not be possible.

544

TP 35

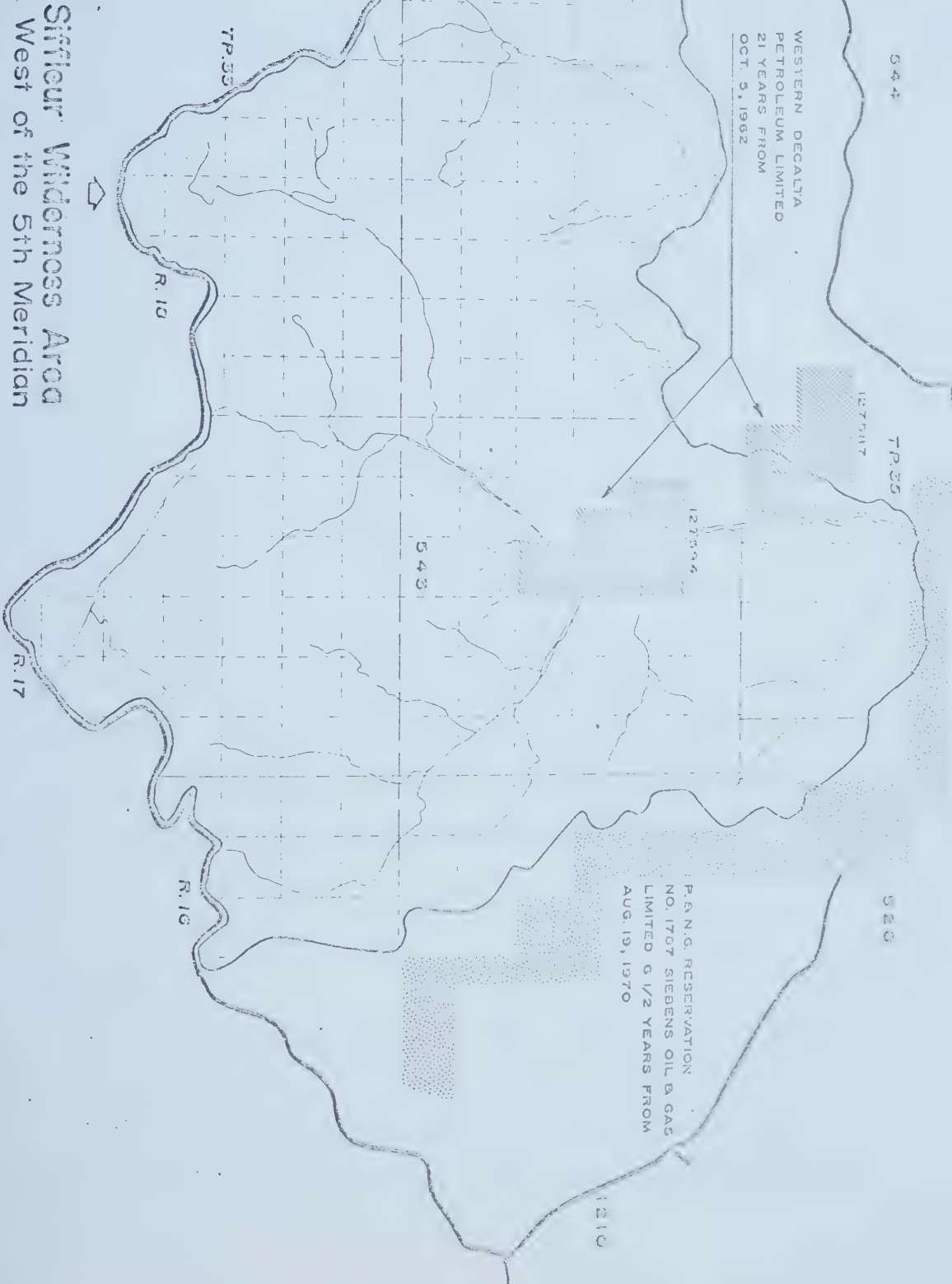
520

WESTERN DECATIA
PETROLEUM LIMITED
21 YEARS FROM
OCT. 5, 1962

P.B.N.G. RESERVATION
NO. 1707 SIEBENS OIL & GAS
LIMITED 6 1/2 YEARS FROM
AUG. 19, 1970

Siffleur Wilderness Area West of the 5th Meridian

159.13 Sq. MI.



TRAPPING AREA

PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS LEASE

PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS RESERVE

PRESENT WILDERNESS AREA

0.124 MI. 1 INCH = 5 MILES

WHITE GOAT PROVISIONAL WILDERNESS AREA

GENERAL:

The White Goat Wilderness Area was established under the provisions of Section 10 of the Forest Reserves Act by Order-in-Council 47/61, January 10, 1961. The area was re-established by Order-in-Council 1876/65 on October 21, 1965.

The area was established as a Provisional Wilderness Area by Section 3, Subsection 1 of the Wilderness Areas Act.

AREA:

The White Goat Provisional Wilderness Area is the largest of the three Provisional Wilderness Areas in the province containing approximately 488 square miles.

The area is bounded on the west by the east boundaries of Banff and Jasper National Parks, on the south by a high mountain range which forms the north limit of the North Saskatchewan River Valley, on the east by the apex of a mountain range called the "First Range" then by Opabin Creek following down to its junction with the Brazeau River. This junction forms the north boundary of the area.

TOPOGRAPHY:

The White Goat is similar to the other Provisional Wilderness Areas in that it consists of a series of high mountain ranges separated by wide valleys. The White Goat Area in addition contains many lakes as well as several major streams including the Cline River.

A natural divide exists in the White Goat Area in Townships 38 and 39, Ranges 19 - 21, West of the 5th Meridian, where a range of mountains divides the tributaries of the Brazeau River from the tributaries of the Cline River. Access from the one watershed to the other is possible through Job Pass by horse or on foot.

ACCESS:

Access to the north part of the White Goat Area is next to impossible from the east except by pack horse or all-terrain vehicle. A road to an abandoned wellsite constructed up the Blackstone River Valley some twenty miles from the Forestry Trunk Road is passable at present by four-wheel drive vehicle to within four miles of the boundary. This road will probably be washed out in the near future so that access by pack horse will be the only way to reach the area except on foot.

The southern area is accessible to the boundary of the wilderness by car from the David Thompson Highway. A vehicle trail is constructed on the north side of the Cline River to the wilderness boundary. Pack horse trails are available through the area up Coral Creek and on the north side of the Cline River and through other parts of the area. These trails have been used for a great many years by outfitters serving hunting parties, trail rides from the National Parks and others.

Hiking access is also available and popular through Sunset Pass and the Norman Creek-Pinto Lake Trail from the Banff-Jasper Highway and also up Nigel Creek-Nigel Pass and Cataract Pass.

FISH AND GAME:

The White Goat Area is a highly valued hunting and fishing area. The area supports significant populations of sheep, goat, elk and grizzly bear with caribou inhabiting parts of the McDonald Creek Watershed. This area is hunted by some six to nine outfitters including twenty to twenty-five guides and produces a major part of the sheep and goat harvest in Alberta.

Unlike the Ghost River and Siffleur Areas which offer little or no fishing, the White Goat Area has a number of lakes and streams providing excellent fishing for Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden.

ALIENATIONS AND DISPOSITIONS:

The White Goat Area is covered by five registered trap lines as follows:

#542 in the name of Killian Wildman, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

#544 - Vacant

#545 in the name of Joseph A. Okeynan, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

#546 in the name of Charlie Regnier of Alhambra, Alberta.

#1284 in the name of Jerry N. Kenny, Bowden, Alberta. (Appendix 7)

The area is also affected by four Petroleum and Natural Gas Leases in the name of Scurry Rainbow Oil Limited and others. There is also a Petroleum and Natural Gas Reservation in favour of Canadian Industrial Gas and Oil Ltd. which affects the east boundary of the area. (Appendix 8)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee spent many hours considering the possibilities and alternatives available to them in attempting to select an area from the White Goat Provisional Wilderness Area which would reasonably comply with the 144 square mile guideline set out in the Wilderness Areas Act.

To assist the Committee information was requested and obtained from various sources in the Department of Lands and Forests including the group conducting "The Foothills Resource Allocation Study", the Fish and Wildlife Division and the Alberta Forest Service reports prepared by the Forest Land Use Section covering a review of Wilderness Areas. The Canada Land Inventory information and maps, particularly those relating to Recreation Capability and Forest Capability were studied by the Committee. Maps and information related to mineral potential were also obtained from the Research Council of Alberta.

The Committee feels that the area selected best suits the criteria for a Wilderness Area implied in the Wilderness Areas Act.

The Committee recommends that the following area containing 172 square miles, more or less, be established as a Wilderness Area pursuant to Section 3, Subsection 4(a) of the Wilderness Areas Act.

All that parcel or tract of land, situate, lying, and being in the Province of Alberta, Canada, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the east boundary of Banff National Park, distant 300 yards northwesterly measured along the said boundary from its intersection with the Norman Creek-Pinto Lake Trail in unsurveyed Township 36, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence in a northeasterly direction parallel to the said trail to a point on the left bank of the Cline River, which point is approximately 400 yards downstream from where the said trail first crosses the Cline River; thence downstream following the sinuosities of the said bank to a point on the said bank opposite the mouth of a small unnamed creek, which point is approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of the said Cline River with Coral Creek in unsurveyed Township 37, Range 18, West of the 5th Meridian; thence northwesterly following the height of land forming the west boundary of the watershed of Coral Creek and continuing along the height of land forming the easterly and northerly boundary of the watershed of McDonald Creek to Mount McDonald in unsurveyed Township 39, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence southerly approximately one mile to an unnamed peak; thence westerly down the slope of this latter peak to the source of the easterly fork of an unnamed creek; thence westerly and northerly following the unnamed creek to its intersection with the east boundary of Jasper National Park in unsurveyed Township 39, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian; thence southerly, southwesterly and southeasterly following the east boundary of Jasper and Banff National Parks to the point of commencement.

The Committee very strongly recommends that the balance of the White Goat Provisional Wilderness Area be declared a Restricted Development Area pursuant to Section 15 of the Department of the Environment Act particularly with reference to the fact that no development or other operations which would disturb the surface of the area and no motor vehicles should be allowed in the area. The Restricted Development Area should, however, be available for recreational pursuits such as fishing and hunting.

TP. 42

1875

TP. 41

SCURRY-RAINBOW OIL
LIMITED, BENEDUM-TREES
OIL COMPANY, PEYTO OILS
LIMITED & AMERICAN
TRADING & PRODUCTION
CORPORATION 21 YEARS
FROM MAY 16, 1962

TP. 40

1284

White Goat Wilderness Area West of the 5th Meridian

488.73 Sq. Mi. (171.65 Sq. Mi.)

- TRAPPING AREA
- ▨ PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS LEASE
- ▤ PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS RESERVE
- PRESENT WILDERNESS AREA
- - - RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA

0 1 Mi. 6 Mi. 10 Miles
1" = 5 MI.

TP. 39

546

126655

542

1069

P. & N.G. RESERVATION-1065
CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL GAS & OIL LTD.
6 1/2 YEARS FROM AUG. 22, 1969

TP. 38

545

TP. 37

TP. 36

544

TP. 35

543

P. & N.G. RESERVATION-
1790
PENNANT OILS LTD.
6 1/2 YEARS FROM
AUG. 1970

R. 22

R. 21

R. 20

R. 19

R. 18

